



**State Senator • 19th District**

**Mark SCHAUER**

*Senior News*

*From Your State Capitol*

***How To Reach***

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**Schauer: "Long-Term Care  
Urgently Needs Reform"**

**I**n June, Senator Schauer hosted a town hall meeting on long-term care in Battle Creek and another meeting is planned in Jackson for September 26. Town hall meetings are being held in conjunction with the release of recommendations by Governor Granholm's Long-Term Care Task Force.

The Task Force's report focused on the need for better distribution of long-term care resources. It emphasized that, in order for the system to both provide quality care and remain financially solvent, the MI Choice waiver

program must be fully funded and long-term care workers need to be paid a competitive salary.

Citizens testified about their difficulties navigating the long-term care system. Daily monitoring costs average \$43 per day if a person lives at home. It costs Medicaid \$140 per day to care for that same person in a nursing home, yet the current system makes it difficult to obtain the MI Choice waivers needed for home care.

"Long-term care urgently needs reform," said Senator Schauer. "It is a disservice to force citizens into nursing homes when it is often possible to provide appropriate care for less money at home."

Special thanks to Mary Bauer from the Area Agency on Aging Region III-B, Jane Church of the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging, Vaughn Thompson of the Service Employees International Union, and Norm DeLisle from the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, who served on the panel with Senator Schauer.





*Dear Friends,*

*Our region has shown many signs of progress and growth over the last year. Battle Creek and Jackson have now attained “Cool City” status. In Lansing, I am working to balance the state budget without cutting services to our senior citizens who, after a lifetime of service to family and community, deserve our support. Additionally, I am actively working to keep the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base open and in full operation. I traveled to St. Louis to testify before the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission, participated in a site visit by the Commission, and flew twice to Washington to meet with BRAC Commissioners.*

*As more exciting opportunities unfold, we will continue to focus on good paying jobs, a safety net for our most vulnerable citizens, educational opportunities, and building vibrant communities.*

*Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the Senate. I look forward to another productive year!*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Schauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being more prominent.

*Mark Schauer*



## Schauer Recognized for Service

Senator Schauer received the Legislator of the Year Award from Lifeways, which provides services to the developmentally disabled and mentally ill in Jackson County. Lifeways presented the award in recognition of Schauer's continued work on behalf of vulnerable citizens, including the “Health Care for All” program for the uninsured.

Senator Schauer also received the 2004 Distinguished Service Award from the Southwest Michigan Chapter of the American Public Works

Association. The award is given to individuals who support public works and infrastructure planning and development. Senator Schauer's active promotion of infrastructure improvements has helped many communities build parks, public buildings, roads, and sewers.

In Lansing, Senator Schauer received accolades

from his colleagues as one of the most effective legislators.

A survey conducted by the Michigan Information and Research Service ranked Schauer as one of the top Senators in Michigan.



# NEWS & NOTES

## Mail-Order Prescriptions Can Now Be Filled Locally

**S**enator Schauer co-sponsored legislation to allow Michigan pharmacies to fill mail-order prescriptions. Many Michigan residents are now required to receive certain prescriptions by mail. Those whose insurance allows them a choice of mail-order pharmacies will now be able to use Michigan-based pharmacies.

## Legislation Would Allow Nursing Home Residents to Employ Monitoring Devices

**L**egislation has been introduced in the Senate to allow nursing home residents to install video cameras and other recording devices in their rooms. A resident could also have their legal representative install such a system. This proposal offers protection to nursing home residents from abusive, unprofessional, or unethical treatment.

## Elder Abuse Task Force

**G**overnor Granholm has created the Task Force on Elder Abuse. The Task Force will recommend policies to protect Michigan's senior citizens from abuse, fraud, neglect, and financial exploitation. The group will issue a report in May 2006 that will include a review of Michigan's current efforts and recommendations on how to prevent and prosecute elder abuse. The Task Force will also develop greater public awareness of this growing problem. An Elder Abuse Task Force Town Hall Meeting is planned for Jackson this fall.

## Consumer Protection for Senior Citizens

**S**enator Schauer is working on legislation giving seniors the tools they need to protect themselves against unfair marketing tactics and pricing schemes.

- Utilities: Discounted utility rates for seniors



would be protected against increases when usage goes up.

- Insurance companies would be required to deal fairly and in good faith with policyholders.
- Predatory lending: Banks would be prohibited from charging excess interest rates on loans.
- Insurance rates: The Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association (MCCA), which charges a mandatory statewide fee for car insurance medical coverage, would be required to comply with the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act.

## Social Security Town Hall Meeting

**I**n March, U.S. Representative Sandy Levin joined Senator Schauer for a Social Security Town Hall Meeting sponsored by Michigan Citizen Action. The lawmakers discussed with citizens the impact of the President's plan to privatize Social Security.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office reports that the current system is fully funded until 2052. After that, it could continue to pay out at least 80 percent of benefits if no changes are made to the current system. The President's private accounts plan is dependent upon a robust economy and risks

the elimination of the most trusted financial safety net for seniors. Under the President's plan, 1.7 million Michigan retirees could see drastic cuts in their payments in the next 15 years. Ultimately, if President Bush's plan is adopted, retirees could see benefits reduced significantly.





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# State Support Assists New Headquarters at Historic Site

**G**reat Lakes Home Health and Hospice received a \$550,000 Brownfield Redevelopment tax credit to rehabilitate property in Jackson for use as their new headquarters. The building is being constructed along the old prison wall on Cooper Street in Jackson.

Senator Schauer worked with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to secure the property transfer and negotiate tax credits for the project. Senator Schauer also worked with the Michigan Department of Transportation to address several infrastructure and access issues.

The company plans to invest more than \$5.5 million and create 125 additional full-time jobs over the next five years. The organization provides in-home health care and hospice services for all of mid-Michigan.

# Schauer's Efforts Result in Sojourner Truth Day

**B**y signing into law Public Act 48 of 2005, Governor Granholm has established November 26 as Sojourner Truth Day. Senator Schauer's amendment to Senate Bill 384 created the statewide holiday.

Sojourner Truth is known throughout the world as an abolitionist and women's suffragist. She settled in Battle Creek in 1857 and died at her home on November 26, 1883.

"Sojourner Truth is one of our most influential historical figures. She

deserves official recognition for her exceptional

contributions to the fight for human rights," said Schauer.

